

602,748  
P.F. 601,816/W.R.C.3.a.

22nd September, 1945.

To: USSET MAIN.

Reference your 461(CBI/CIT/Op) of 23 August, 1945 on the subject of the German plane crash at PIESSENKOMEN.

We have received your S-23884 of 18 September stating that PAEFFGEN saw STEINLE on 1st August. The evidence so far available on STEINLE is the following:-

Brig. SCHULZ, Bds. Salzburg, stated that STEINLE was killed in an air-crash near Rente on 20th April.

Your letter of above reference seemed at first to confirm this but doubt was thrown on this by SANDER-GER's statement that STEINLE was at Reit in Winkel on 8th May with PAEFFGEN. PAEFFGEN's testimony can now be taken as certain and our conclusion is therefore that STEINLE is still alive.

It is apparent that false conclusions have been drawn from the documents found in the crashed plane and we would appreciate if the documents could be forwarded as suggested. Among the more obvious mistakes are the statements that ZSCHUNKE is now in Madrid and that VILHART is probably in Spain; both these characters are actually under arrest. We are anxious therefore to establish what can be deduced from the documents regarding the other individuals mentioned as we are not now prepared to accept the locations deduced by 599th AAA AW Battalion.

We are naturally most interested in the result of your exploitation of PAEFFGEN's information.

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